

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-11 and 13-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 13 are amended. The claims are amended to provide clarification of the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention and do not narrow the scope of the pending claims from those previously filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Address Change

As noted in the Amendment filed July 9, 2003, Applicant requests that all further communications regarding this application be forwarded to Oliff & Berridge, PLC in accordance with the Notice Regarding Power of Attorney mailed on March 22, 2002 from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

II. Response to the Amendment

At page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, in a Response to Amendment, the Office Action indicates that Applicant's arguments do not comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.111(c), "because they do not clearly point out the patentable novelty which he/she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. Further, they do not show how the amendments avoid such references or objections."

Applicant asserts that the amendments and arguments provided in the July 9, 2003, Amendment fully complied with a 37 C.F.R. §1.111. For example, in response to the

rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102, Applicant asserted that Schmidt does not disclose specific features recited in the rejected claims. Applicant specifically identified features in Schmidt through the use of the figures and reference characters indicating that Schmidt does not anticipate the subject matter recited in the claims of the application. Applicant also provided additional arguments in response to the Office Actions allegation of inherency (see pgs. 7 and 8 of the July 9, 2003 Office Action).

The Office Action also indicates that the distinction between a "regular segment" and an "irregular segment" remains unclear and therefore the 112 rejection is maintained. However, as discussed during the personal interview and as provided in the July 9, 2003 Amendment, Applicant has clearly identified the distinction between the "regular segment" and an "irregular segment".

III. Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that the "line of demarcation" separating the "regular segment" from the "irregular segment" is not clear. Applicant asserts that the specification contains a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains...to make and use the same, as required under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. For example, as discussed in the previous Amendment, and the personal interview conducted on July 1, 2003, "irregular", or minor segments, 234, 235 and 236 are shown for example in Fig. 11. As discussed at page 6 of the specification, the segment 230 include major segments as regular segments and minor segments as irregular segments. The minor, or "irregular segments", 234 and 235 provide output leads in a neutral connection lead extending beyond a coil end group. The minor, or irregular, sections also include jumper

segments 236 for providing irregular pitch and/or irregular radial distant connection, as shown in Fig. 11. Additionally, as discussed on page 8 of the specification, when referring to Fig. 11, end portions of the irregular segments 234, 235 and 236 are bent to form incline portions and tabs similar to those shown in Fig. 2. These portions provide first coil end portions and the second coil end group 23b. Numerous additional examples occur throughout the specification describing the subject matter in the claims.

Similarly, the major, or "regular segments", are shown in at least Fig. 2 and include large segments 231 and small segments 232 which are regularly arranged on the stator core 22 for providing a main part of the stator winding 23, as shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 2 also shows a unit of regular, or major segments, and a first slot and a second slot which is spaced apart, a magnetic pole pitch in a clock-wise direction from the first slot. Numerous additional examples are provided throughout the specification, including page 11 of the specification which recites each of the regular segments 231 and 232 is covered with a first installation layer which is made of a polyster-imide layer 237, as shown in Fig. 14, providing support for the subject matter recited in the claims. Thus, Applicant asserts that the subject matter recited in claims 1, 4, 5 and 13-15 contains subject matter which is described in the specification in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable one skilled in the art to make and use the same.

Claim 1, 4, 5 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the "meets and bounds" of the terms "regular segments" and "irregular segments" are not clear. The Office Action states that it is not clear where a regular segments ends and an irregular segment begins, i.e., the same grounds of rejection as described in the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Office Action also alleges that it is not clear how to distinguish a regular segment from an

irregular segment and therefore the claims fail to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention.

Applicant submits that the specification concludes with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention, as required by 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Furthermore, as stated above, the specification provides ample description of regular and irregular segments and how they differentiate from one another. Therefore, when read in light of the specification the metes and bounds of the claims are clear. Additionally, Applicant asserts that one skilled in the art would understand how to determine a regular segment from an irregular segment. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,982,068 describes irregular segments, or specific segments, as well as regular segments, or base segments. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the terms as used in the specification and claims are known to those skilled in the art.

Additional guidance and argument regarding the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 may be found in the Amendment filed on July 9, 2003. Applicant respectfully request rejection of claims 1, 4, 5 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and second paragraph, be withdrawn.

IV. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,712,517 to Schmidt et al. ("Schmidt"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that Schmidt does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims as amended. For example, Schmidt does not disclose a rotary electric machine, comprising a stator having a winding with a first coil end group on an axial end thereof and a second coil end group on the other axial end, the stator winding including a plurality of regular segments welded to one another and regularly arranged in a pattern to

provide a main portion of the stator winding and a plurality of irregular segments disposed to provide connection of the regular segments to form the stator winding and output leads.

Rather, Schmidt discloses a stator winding made of a continuous coiled wire mounted in a stator core. As Schmidt discloses a continuous coiled type stator core, Schmidt does not anticipate the subject matter recited in the rejected claims. In other words, because Schmidt is a continuous coiled wire it can not disclose or anticipate a plurality of regular segments welded to one another and a plurality of irregular segments. As clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Schmidt, a continuous wire winding can not, and does not, have a plurality of segments.

Regarding claim 5, the Office Action alleges that Schmidt discloses a fan as not being shown. Applicant submits that Schmidt describes "other ventilation windows" 26 are included to provide additional venting and air circulation from the fan mounted on the rotor (not shown) and beneath the opening 11 (col. 2, lines 63-65). Accordingly, Schmidt does not disclose a rotor electric machine further comprising a fan, wherein the irregular segments are disposed on a passage of cooling wind generated by the fan. Rather, Schmidt merely describes air circulation from the fan mounted on the rotor and does not provide any indication of irregular segments disposed on a passage of cooling wind. Thus, Schmidt does not disclose the feature of claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 11 be withdrawn.

V. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Schmidt in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,917,155 to Hake et al. ("Hake"); and claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Schmidt in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,936,326 to Umeda et al. ("Umeda"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that the combination of Schmidt and Hake do not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 9 and 10. Additionally, Applicant asserts that claim 9

and 10 are allowable for at least their dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Furthermore, Hake does not overcome the deficiencies of Schmidt noted above in discussion of the rejection of claim 1. In other words, Hake does not disclose or suggest a plurality of regular segments welded to one another and regularly arranged in a pattern to provide a main portion of the stator winding and a plurality of irregular segments disposed to provide connections of the regular segments to form the stator winding and output leads.

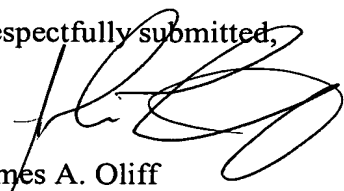
Similarly, the combination of Schmidt and Umeda do not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 13-15. For example, Umeda does not overcome the deficiencies of Schmidt in its failure to disclose or suggest a stator winding that includes a plurality of regular segments mounted in the stator core and welded to one another in a regular pattern to provide a main portion of the stator winding and a plurality of irregular segments mounted in the stator core in different patterns to provide connections of the regular segments to form the stator winding and output leads. Furthermore, the combination of Umeda and Schmidt does not disclose a first end coil group and the rectifier disposed near a centrifugal cooling fan wherein a portion of the irregular segments extend from the first coil end group to be connected to the rectifier as recited in claim 14, or wherein each of the irregular segments has at least one joining portion disposed in the second coil end group, as recited in claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request rejection of claims 9, 10 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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